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Biddulph Urban District

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1954**



PREPARED BY:

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URBAN DISTRICT OF BIDDULPH

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Council Offices,

Biddulph.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

I beg to submit, as your Medical Officer of Health, my Annual Report for 1954.

It has been prepared in accordance with Circular 28/54 issued by the Ministry of Health incorporating all relevant subjects required by the Ministry from District Councils. Form S.D. 55 which contains the principal statistics of births and deaths for England and Wales for 1954 has been omitted from the report. The necessary local information is incorporated as before in Forms S.D. 30 and S.D. 30A in the section dealing with vital statistics and is considered sufficient for use in a report of this nature.

The population of Biddulph continues to increase. The Registrar General's mid-year estimate is 11,770 an increase of 630 over the previous year's figure of 11,140. This is by far the largest annual increase since returns were first available more than 50 years ago. The density of the population has increased too, from 1.67 persons per acre to 1.77. The census population of 1951 was 10,898. There has been a marked rise in the live birth rate. The figure of 16.25 per 1000 of the population is the highest rate since 1948 even after adjustment by the comparability factor. The death rate is higher at 11.69 per 1000 of the population than for 2 years. Infantile mortality is lower but the still birth rate has almost doubled. Heart disease and cancer remain the principal causes of death and there has been an increase in mortality from both these groups of diseases. Accidents accounted for less than 1 per cent. of the total deaths, a reduction from 5.1 per cent. last year. None was due to motor vehicle accidents and none occurred among the child population. 4 of the five infant deaths occurred in the neo-natal period and are ascribed to congenital and "unavoidable" causes.

Building activity on the Park Lane Estate continued throughout the year but suffered interruptions from time to time due to a variety of causes including adverse weather conditions. The

concentration of effort has been directed to the completion of houses assigned to the Coal Industry Housing Association. At the end of 1954 370 such houses had been completed and made available to miners and their families. The estate now houses many colliery workers from different mining areas throughout the country as well as from other parts of North Staffordshire. 88 houses under the local authority's allocation and including bungalows for old people were completed and occupied. Including newly-constructed owner-occupied houses a total of 479 dwellings was completed in 1954. No work has yet been carried out under the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act but the position in the district of repair, improvement and demolition to older property is not a serious one. No comprehensive survey under the Act has yet been carried out though preliminary figures suggest that some 6 per cent. of all inhabited houses in the area may be subject to the various provisions of the Act.

The present position of the water supplies and the progress made in the Biddulph Moor mains supply to Park Lane has been dealt with in the report. Comment is made on the further stages of the Council's augmentation scheme especially in relation to increased reservoir capacity and the reorganisation at Elmhurst to increase the yield. The Biddulph Park supply is chlorinated and the quality of the water from all sources of supply is, in general, satisfactory.

Changes in the law relating to the supply and quality of milk came into force on 1st October, 1954, by virtue of new regulations under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Regulations 1954. Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested milks are now the only designated milks permitted to be sold or supplied. The use of the special designation "Accredited" is not now permitted. Pasteurised milk must now be bottled. It is illegal to sell it by can or dipper. The new regulations, it is hoped, are a further step to the day when all milk sold retail will be Tuberculin Tested.

Infectious diseases follow the pattern of recent years. Measles was the only notifiable disease to approach epidemic incidence but there was a considerable reduction in the number of cases (51) compared with the much larger outbreaks of 1951 and 1952. The preventive aspects of diphtheria are again discussed and the more

recent introduction in late 1953 of a whooping cough immunisation scheme has been well received by parents during the year. An analysis of the position of infectious diseases is reviewed in Section F of the report. There has been no mortality from any of the commoner zymotic diseases.

I am again indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the assistance he has given me throughout the year and in the preparation of Sections C, D and E of the report. He has dealt fully in Section E with the new regulations as applied locally since the decontrol of meat and livestock in June, 1954.

JOHN FERGUSON, M.D., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1955.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT

1954

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1954		1953
Area (in acres)	6,647		6,647
Population (1951 Census) ...	10,898		
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of home populaton (all ages) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area	11,770		11,140
Number of inhabited houses in the Rate Book at the end of the year	3,860		3,383
Number of persons per acre	1.77		1.67
Rateable Value at 1st April ,1954...	£40,532		£37,582
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated) for financial year 1954/5	£165.159		£150.236

RAINFALL FOR 1954

These figures were kindly supplied by Mr. W. J. C. Lambert,
Secretary of the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Month	Rainfall in inches
January	2.45	July	4.57
February	3.25	August	5.13
March	2.70	September	4.06
April	.58	October	6.24
May	3.21	November	5.93
June	4.59	December	4.40

Total 47.11 inches

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The impressive expansion of the Park Lane building programme, begun in August, 1951, has been continued during 1954. The building of that portion assigned to the Coal Industry Housing Association has made rapid strides. Whereas at the end of 1953 64 such houses, all three-bedroomed type, had been completed and 278 were under construction, by the end of 1954 370 houses had been completed. A total of 434 is now available to miners and their families. They have been recruited from many areas besides North Staffordshire, namely South Wales, the Yorkshire Coalfields, Durham and Scotland; from poor class property and overcrowded conditions. Many have never before enjoyed individual houses, adequate spacing and ventilation or modern sanitation. Of the local authority's allocation 88 houses including 20 bungalows for old people, were completed, making a total of 252 completed by the end of the year. The work on the estate did not proceed without interruption. Temporary stoppages occurred from time to time especially during March, due to adverse weather conditions. For a time, too, the condition of many roadways and footpaths were dangerous. By the end of the year most of these roadways had been made safe, the pavements concreted and a start made by many tenants on such amenities as garden layouts. In an estate of this size contiguous amenities are an essential requirement of the everyday life of the community. The local authority has, therefore, during the year made plans to provide these in the form of shops, churches, open spaces and licensed premises on approved lines. These central facilities should go far to promote the social need of the inhabitants it is intended to serve.

There has been a slight regression in the completion of private building, 21 houses have been built and occupied compared with 29 in the previous year. There has, however, been no relaxation in the facilities afforded to the private builder and there is abundant evidence of their activities in all parts of the district. In all instances planning conditions have been enforced where applicable.

Since the post-war housing programmes were instituted the local authority has built 574 council houses, 74 on the Uplands Estate, 248 on Braddocks Hay and 252 at Park Lane. 434 additional houses on the Park Lane Estate have been completed on behalf of the Coal Industry Housing Association. 124 houses have been built for owner occupation. The total of 1132 houses represents the rehousing of approximately 4,000 people.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 contains further provisions relating to clearance and redevelopment, and the reconditioning of unfit houses and other amendments of the Housing Acts, standards of fitness for human habitation and provisions connected therewith, and repairs increase in respect of controlled dwelling houses and other amendments of the Rent Acts, etc.

The yield of water from the principal sources of supply was in general maintained during the year. The drought conditions of April diminished the spring and well supplies and for a time reduced the borehole level and necessitated additional pumping. The main concern of the local authority was the augmentation and improvement of supplies to the rapidly increasing needs of the Park Lane Housing Estate. To meet this demand a scheme was prepared and approved to provide a six inch main from the reservoir at Biddulph Moor. The completion of plans and Ministry approval enabled work to start early in 1955. The difficulty in maintaining supplies to residents in the Rock End area and the uneasy and uneven service to Park Lane will thus be overcome. The first priority in improving, instead of constantly improvising, the supplies, has been met and the Council has grappled with its primary problem. The immediate priorities now are (1) reorganisation of the Elmhurst pumping station to deliver a still greater yield; and (2) increased reservoir capacity suggested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. They have been urgently considered throughout the year. They are the logical development of the scheme to ensure an abundant supply of pure water to meet the increasing needs, domestic and industrial, of a rapidly expanding district. Progress is dictated almost wholly by the financial outlay.

A supply of piped water to the agricultural area of Lask Edge, on the eastern fringe of the district was approved by the Council and Ministry towards the end of the year and work is to commence early in 1955. The value of an adequate supply to the farms and small-holdings which comprise this area is self evident. The burden, too, of the conversion scheme of 700 out-of-date sanitary conveniences to water carriage calls for additional supplies for it is now nearing completion. Additional hydrants have been installed in the central parts of the town, at Park Lane and in the outer areas of Gillow Heath, Biddulph Moor and that portion of Mow Cop within the Urban District. The supply from Nettlebeds, which has long had a solvent action on lead, is treated before being discharged into the distribution system. The local authority is to deal with this problem of hardening as an integral part of its larger augmentation plans.

A particularly severe exacerbation of storm-water flooding at Brindley Ford on the boundary with Stoke-on-Trent and the Urban District of Kisgrove—a recurring annoyance for many years—led to discussion with the interested authorities and the County Surveyor. Certain action was agreed upon and it is hoped that when completed conditions will show an improvement.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

1954

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

		Births		Deaths			
		0.98		1.28			
		Live Births				Stillbirths	
		M.	F.			M.	F.
Total ...		104	90			Total ...	5 6
Legitimate	102	...	86	Legitimate	5	...	6
Illegitimate	2	...	4	Illegitimate	—	...	—

Total Live Births 194

Total Stillbirths 11

	1954		1953
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	16.48	...	15.62
Crude adjusted Birth Rate by comparability factor	16.25	...	15.62
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.62	...	0.36

		M.	F.
Total Deaths	112	...	61 51
Deaths of infants under 1 year	5	...	3 2
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	4	...	2 2

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population... ..	9.51	...	8.71
Crude adjusted Death Rate by comparability factor	11.69	...	10.45
Infantile Mortality Rate	26	...	29

VITAL STATISTICS.—Form S.D. 38

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES—1954

	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	61	51
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer—malignant disease	11	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Coronary disease, angina	11	3
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
Other heart disease	8	7
Other circulatory disease	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	11
Diabetes	—	—
Bronchitis	6	3
Pneumonia	4	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—
Diarrhoea, gastritis and enteritis	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	2
Suicide	—	—
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	5

INFANTILE MORTALITY—Deaths under 1 year of age

No.	Sex		Age	Cause of Death	Date of Death
1	M		3 hours	Prematurity	7th Jan.
2	M		6 months	Sagittal Sinus Thrombosis	12th March
3		F	2 weeks	Broncho - Pneumonia congenital heart disease	27th May
4	M		3 hours	Prematurity	5th June
5		F	1 day	Hydrocephalus	13th Dec.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

- 1.—John Ferguson, M.D., Ch.B., Medical Officer of Health (part-time).
- 2.—Thomas E. Pointon, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (full-time).

The Urban District Council is the sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services. It delegates to its Health Committee "authority and power to institute any proceedings or to do any act which the Council might have instituted or done for the suppression of nuisances and the safeguarding of public health but not the raising of any loans or the making of any rate or contract."

The following additional committees are responsible in one form or another with matters of public health, Water, Housing, and Planning and Buildings.

The local authority has no major responsibilities under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The sanitary administration of the district has not been altered by it. The County Council is both Local Health and Local Sanitary Authority as well as Local Education Authority. It has assumed new and diverse responsibilities under the Act. It is responsible for the following services: maternity and child welfare, domiciliary midwifery, vaccination and immunisation an ambulance service, a health visiting service, the administration of the Mental Services, "care and after care" and the provision of home nursing and "home helps." Section 21 of the Act imposes on the County Council the duty of providing Health Centres.

The following are the principal services provided by the County Council and utilised by the inhabitants of the Urban District.

1. Ambulance Services (Section 27)

There are two ambulances and a staff of four consisting of an ambulance officer and three drivers. The local ambulance station is situated on Council premises which have been made available for the use of the Local Health Authority.

2. Laboratory Facilities (Part, Section 26)

Biddulph is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. It is a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable

diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected or actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water and sewage, the sampling of milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the sampling of ice cream, synthetic cream and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer. Its staff is available to participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves, with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

During 1954 the laboratory service investigated 105 specimens of sputum submitted for examination for the tubercle bacillus. All specimens were examined by direct microscopy and 46 were further examined by cultural methods. 13 of the specimens were positive to tuberculosis. In February, 1954, 9 tins of Galtee cream, an Irish product, were withdrawn from local shops and examined by the laboratory following a suspected infecting agent thought to be present in the cream from another part of the country. All local specimens were negative as indeed were all samples of this product. The measures taken were precautionary and were no reflection on the product or the methods of manufacture. 15 specimens of faeces were examined at varying times throughout the year for specific intestinal infections and two were found to be positive to the bacteria most commonly responsible for food poisoning, namely organisms of the Salmonella group. Only one throat swab was sent for examination during the year, an enormous reduction from pre-immunisation days when 100 or more were submitted for examination from this area in a single year. The laboratory continues to report on the results of biological tests for tuberculosis on samples of milk submitted on behalf of the County Council and sold retail within the Urban District. 86 such samples were submitted and none was found to be positive to tuberculosis. This compares very favourably with 3 positive samples in 1953, 2 in 1952 and 4 in 1951. It is a measure of the improved conditions of production and the upgrading of herds by the changes in the law relating to specially designated milks. The County Council milk sampling officer also submitted to the laboratory during the year 151 random samples for examination for ordinary bacteriological cleanliness. 25 samples (or 16 per cent.) failed to pass a cleanliness test. Last year the percentage was 19. No less than 15 of the failed samples were from T.T. herds. The percentage of failures has declined satisfactorily over the past 5 years but constant vigilance is still required to obtain the highest standards in the handling, bottling and distribution of milk.

The laboratory distributes, in the prevention of disease, diphtheria prophylactic, and calf lymph for smallpox vaccination. It makes available measles prophylactic for the passive immunisation of contacts and distributes outfits for the collection of pathological material.

3. Maternity, Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services (Sections 23, 25 and 29)

There are two County Council midwives and one district nurse. One of the midwives combines general home nursing in the Biddulph Moor area. The appointment of a district nurse for Biddulph in September, 1948, was the first of its kind for 25 years and was a measure of the total inadequacy of the home nursing service prior to the inception of the Act. The Leek Area Health Committee, under Section 29, is responsible for the appointments of domestic helps. Their function is to give assistance in the home during the incapacity of a wife or mother and they do not undertake any duties of a nursing character.

The County Council is responsible, as before, for the other special health services, viz.: Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical Service and Tuberculosis. There are two Health Visitors available for Ante-Natal work and for the supervision of nursing mothers and school children. One has, in addition, duties under the direction of the Tuberculosis Officer.

4. Hospitals

Some alterations in hospital facilities have occurred since the inception of the new service on July 5th, 1948. The following hospitals are available for various forms of treatment—general, acute and chronic, sanatoria, mental and infectious diseases—North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary; Haywood Hospital; Orthopaedic Hospital, Hartshill; Congleton War Memorial Hospital; Longton Cottage Hospital; City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent; Moorlands Hospital, Leek; Cheadle Hospital; Westcliffe Hospital, Chell; Groundslow and Prestwood Sanatoria; St. Edward's Hospital, Leek. Two additional hospitals have thus been made available for the inhabitants of this district: City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent and Westcliffe Hospital, Chell; one for the acutely ill and the other for the chronic sick. All except the War Memorial Hospital, Congleton, are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through the Stoke-on-Trent Area Management Committee. The Congleton one is in the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board and administered by the Macclesfield and District Hospital Management Committee. Geographical hospital boundaries have thus been greatly widened by the Regional arrangements under the Act and, as far as this district is concerned, have made the problem of finding hospital accommodation for the acutely sick a little less difficult than in many parts of the country. The problem of the disposal of the chronic sick and of those in need of sanatorium treatment has increased.

The long association of this district with West Heath Isolation Hospital, Congleton (now re-named the Heath Home) for the reception of infectious diseases cases ceased in August, 1949, when that hospital

was converted into an institution for the care of the chronic sick by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board. Since then facilities have been made available at Bucknall Isolation Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, within the area of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, for dealing with cases of infectious diseases from this area. Arrangement for their reception are made through the local Medical Officer of Health and the local ambulance service is responsible for their transport.

Maternity cases, in an emergency, are received at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary and the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent. Part of the maternity wing of the Haywood Hospital is now available for normal cases without charge and part is still on a fee-paying basis. There are four maternity amenity beds at Congleton War Memorial Hospital.

The Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, the only one within the Urban District, is under the control of the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee and is available for the treatment of orthopaedic cases from the Biddulph Urban District at the discretion of the orthopaedic consultant in charge. Local children have received treatment there during 1954.

5: Mortuary

The Council's mortuary is situated in Wharf Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required. The mortuary was used on four occasions during 1954 and 20 visits of inspection were made.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The yield from all sources maintained a satisfactory level throughout the year and it is gratifying to report that generally the supply has been constant to all areas, except Rock End, where the supply has been intermittent at peak consumption periods. It is anticipated that this difficulty will be overcome by the laying of additional main capacity on the high level distribution system.

A mains supply to the Lask Edge area was finally approved by the end of the year and work is to commence early in 1955.

A table is given of the average yield of water from the chief sources of the Council's supplies.

MONTHLY YIELD OF WATER SUPPLIES AT SOURCE (24 hours)

	Biddulph Park Springs	Elmhurst Borehole and Well	Nettlebeds
January	73,000 gals...	264,000 gals....	17,000 gals.
February	77,000 „ ...	246,000 „ ...	20,000 „
March	84,000 „ ...	235,000 „ ...	24,000 „
April	84,000 „ ...	245,000 „ ...	21,000 „
May	80,000 „ ...	269,000 „ ...	18,000 „
June	79,000 „ ...	258,000 „ ...	19,000 „
July	79,000 „ ...	260,000 „ ...	18,000 „
August	91,000 „ ...	221,000 „ ...	29,000 „
September	97,000 „ ...	223,000 „ ...	25,000 „
October	107,000 „ ...	209,000 „ ...	27,000 „
November	126,000 „ ...	174,000 „ ...	32,000 „
December	144,000 „ ...	146,000 „ ...	35,000 „

3,724 houses have a piped supply direct to the premises. There are 136 houses without a piped supply. 96.5 per cent. of the population is thus receiving water from public mains.

Quality

(1) BACTERIOLOGICAL.—The quality of water from the Council's main sources of supply was generally satisfactory, apart from the springs at Biddulph Park and Whitemoor. 8 samples from these two sources showed evidence of contamination which was considered to be due to surface water gaining access to the springs during heavy rainfall. The Whitemoor springs were exposed and steps taken to prevent the contamination. Subsequent samples were satisfactory. The contamination, which is intermittent, has not yet been finally eliminated at the Biddulph Park springs, but as this water is mixed with the supply from the Elmhurst borehole and chlorinated, there is no danger to the consumer.

(2) CHEMICAL.—Samples of water from the Council's supply were satisfactory, apart from the Nettlebeds supply which still has a solvent action on lead. This supply is treated with lime before being pumped into the distribution system. Provision to deal with the problem is included in the augmentation scheme under consideration by the Council.

7 samples were taken for chemical analysis, 4 from raw supplies and 3 from piped supplies.

Samples of water were also taken from 4 sources of supply other than main supplies. All were from springs and 3 bacteriological samples were not entirely satisfactory.

BIDDULPH PARK DISTRIBUTION AREA

SOURCE	RAW SUPPLY			PIPED SUPPLY		
	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS
Spring—N. side Biddulph Park Reservoir	3	—	2 samples unsatisfactory	5	1	Chemical satisfactory Bacteriological—3 samples unsatisfactory.
Spring—E. side Biddulph Park Reservoir	3	—	2 samples unsatisfactory			
Elmhurst Borehole	3	3	Satisfactory			
			WHITEMOOR DISTRIBUTION AREA	7	1	Chemical satisfactory Bacteriological—5 samples unsatisfactory.

NETTLEBEDS WELL DISTRIBUTION AREA

SOURCE	RAW SUPPLY			PIPED SUPPLY		
	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS
Nettlebeds Well	1	1	Satisfactory	3	1	Satisfactory

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The enlarged and improved sewage works, have in general, been working satisfactorily. The effluent has been satisfactory and no complaints of pollution have been received.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year in the drying and disposal of sludge. This matter was considered by the Council and efforts are being made to find a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Conversion Scheme.—The Council's conversion scheme, by which it is intended to convert approximately 700 pail closets and privies to water closets, was begun in August, 1951, and has continued to make steady and satisfactory progress ever since. During the year under review 67 further conversions were completed, making a total of 551 since the scheme began. 62 Preliminary and 47 Statutory Notices were served in connection with the scheme and 896 visits and inspections were made.

The undertaking is an ambitious one and will entail an ultimate expenditure by the Council of approximately £7,000, considerably less than the original estimate of £10,000. The Council is responsible for 50 per cent. of the reasonable cost of each conversion. Although the cost to the authority will be heavy, the payment of loan charges will be compensated by a considerable saving in the cost of night-soil collection.

The scheme was estimated to take 4 years to complete and it is hoped to complete it within that period. It has entailed a large amount of work but satisfaction is obtained from the fact that the scheme is appreciated by all persons concerned and that modern sanitation is being provided to so many houses who have been denied it in the past.

In order to extend the conversion scheme to the New Buildings area, the Council approved a scheme for the laying of a new sewer to serve this area at a cost of approximately £3,273. The new sewer will be connected to the City of Stoke-on-Trent sewer at Brindley Ford and will serve 40 properties in the Biddulph area. 39 of these properties at present have pail closets and all will be converted to water closets as soon as the new sewer is completed.

Closet Accommodation

Number of houses served by water closets	3259
Number of houses served by waste water closets	1
Number of houses served by privies	16
Number of houses served by privy pails	584
Particulars of conversions made during the year:—	
Pails converted to water closets	67
Privies converted to water closets	—

Public Conveniences

There are two public conveniences, one in Wharf Road for males and one in High Street for females.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection and disposal of house refuse and nightsoil is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Sanitary Inspector. House refuse is collected by a Dennis 10 cubic yard motor vehicle. A weekly service is given to all but the outlying parts of the district, which receives a fortnightly service. Salvage is collected at the same time as refuse, a trailer being used for the purpose.

Only one refuse collection vehicle is owned by the Council. Because of the ever increasing number of new houses requiring a service, this vehicle has for some time been working to capacity. The development of the Park Lane Estate of approximately 900 houses of which 686 were completed by the end of 1954, together with new houses built by private enterprise, has necessitated using an open lorry from the Surveyor's department for an average of one and a half days per week. The position has now been reached whereby a further vehicle is urgently required, to obviate the necessity of using an unsatisfactory vehicle for this particular work. The Council is considering this matter and it is hoped that a new multi-purpose vehicle will combine the work of refuse collection and nightsoil collection. The vehicle at present used for nightsoil has been specially adapted for the purpose but the amount of work is progressively being reduced by the conversion scheme.

House refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Black Bull and all nightsoil collected is tipped into the main sewer.

Salvage

The demand for waste paper was continued during the year. The paper mills are able to take as much as can be collected. Every effort has been made to increase the tonnage collected and the Council's bonus scheme, instituted in February, 1951, when the price of waste paper was high, has been continued during the year with good results. During the year under review 149 tons of waste paper value £982 were sold, compared with 124 tons value £827 in 1953.

In February, 1954, the Council was relieved of its direction to collect kitchen waste. This service had been unsatisfactory for many years. It was uneconomical, was a source of continued annoyance to the public and resulted in many complains.

Salvaged materials valued at £1,104 were sold during the financial year ended 31st March, 1955, compared with £958 for the previous year. A net profit of £300 was made. Details of sales are as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts		£	s.	d.
Waste paper	155	6	...	1063	16	2
Textiles	1	14	...	29	13	3
Scrap Metal	1	17	...	10	17	0
	158	17	...	£1104	6	5

During the nine years April, 1946, to March, 1955, salvage to the value of £8,643 has been sold.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the principal work undertaken under the Public Health Act, etc., during the year. 171 complaints were received and investigated, 28 of which referred to nightsoil collection. 51 Preliminary Notices and 14 Statutory Notices were served.

Inspections made with respect to	Number of Inspections	Nuisances or defects reported	Re-visits made	Nuisances or defects remedied
P.H.A.—				
Housing and other defects	131	158	137	174
Water Supply ...	35	—	—	—
Drains—				
Inspected or tested	127	18	153	19
Conversion Scheme	55	—	841	—
Sewers cleansed	—	33	—	33
Refuse	18	18	5	18
Accommodation				
Keeping of animals	8	—	26	1
Rats & Mice Act	98	—	187	—
Public Conveniences	14	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	54	—	22	—

Other Visits:—

Respecting infectious diseases	10
Respecting disinfection	10
Respecting refuse and nightsoil collection	176
Respecting salvage	13
Respecting schools, public buildings, cinemas, etc.	5
Miscellaneous visits	176
Interviews—owners and tradesmen	87

Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are no licenced sites, nor tents, vans and sheds in the area. One application was received during the year to station a trailer caravan at the rear of a dwelling house, but the application was refused by the Council.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the local authority is responsible for ensuring as far as

practicable that the district is kept free from rats and mice. Occupiers of land have a legal responsibility to notify the local authority if it comes to their knowledge that rats and mice are living on or resorting to the land in substantial numbers. 24 such notifications were received by the authority and 18 of these premises were treated by the Council's rodent operative.

Inspections of the district were made from time to time by the operative and 20 premises were found to have minor infestations, including those premises about which notifications had been received. A total of 189 visits and inspections was made.

A further maintenance treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out, revealing as in recent years, little evidence of rats. The refuse tip and sewage works were also treated regularly with good results.

Shops Act

The Staffordshire County Council has delegated its powers under the Shops Act, with certain reservations as to hours of closing to this authority. The duties of Shops Inspector are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 147 premises coming within the provisions of the Shops Act. It was found that generally the provisions of the Act were being complied with. The majority of the shops, except confectionery, etc., close well before the permitted hours, which in this district are as late as the Shops Act permit.

Few shops in the area have employees and no contraventions of the Act, concerning working hours, half-day closing, etc., were found.

During the year the Council made one order varying the hours of closing for the few days prior to Christmas.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories without mechanical power (S.1.2.3.4.6.)	1	2	—
(ii) Factories with mechanical power (S.7)	31	32	1
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out- workers' premises)	2	4	—
(iv) Outworkers	9	—	—
Total ...	43	38	1

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—
Total ...	—	1	1

SECTION D—Housing

Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise... ..	21
Number of houses erected by Local Authority	88
Number of houses erected by National Coal Board	370
	—
Total ...	479
	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	41
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	93
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(b) Number [excluding those in sub-head 2 (a) above] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	27

2 Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwelling houses where defects were remedied	22
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936... ..	—
(b) Notices served under Public Health Acts requiring defects to be remedied	3
(c) Number of houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices... ..	2
(d) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936... ..	4
(e) Number of houses included under sub-head 3 (d) above, in respect of which an undertaking was accepted by the Council... ..	—
(f) Number of Demolition Orders made	1
(g) Number of unfit houses demolished	2

SECTION E

Milk Supply

The sampling of milk for bacterial cleanliness, biological testing and for analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Staffordshire County Council through its milk sampling officers.

The bulk of the milk consumed in the district was supplied by producer-retailers until September, 1954, when new regulations provided for only three types of special designated milk being sold in the area. "Accredited" milk was no longer recognised and all milk has to be either "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised." This resulted in several producer-retailers of "Accredited" milk ceasing to sell milk by retail, whilst others, who had to send all their milk to a dairy, obtained from the dairy sufficient milk of the three designations still recognised, to meet their retail requirements. The new regulations have completely changed the methods of the retail milk trade and all milk now sold retail is bottled, with consequently a reduced risk of contamination.

The number of licences issued under the various regulations for special designated milk is as follows:—

Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk... ..	3
Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk	28
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	4
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	4

There are two dairies, other than producers' premises, registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and 27 persons are registered as distributors of milk. A total of 25 visits and inspections was made to farms, dairies and milkshops.

Meat and Other Foods

After 14 years of rationing and control, meat was decontrolled by the Ministry of Food on 29th June, 1954, and private slaughtering was resumed on 2nd July, 1954. During the 14 years of control a meat for consumption in the area was distributed from Stoke-on-Trent. The intimation regarding decontrol gave local authorities little time to make arrangements for private slaughtering to be resumed, and the three local private slaughterhouses which had been unused for many years, had to be restored quickly to a satisfactory condition before slaughtering in them could take place. The Council was satisfied that by licencing the three slaughterhouses, the requirements of the district had been met, until such time as the Ministry

of Food implements its policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country . It was ascertained that the majority of the butchers did not wish to slaughter their own animals but to buy their meat from wholesalers outside the district.

The resumption of private slaughtering has created additional duties of meat inspection and quite a considerable amount of slaughtering takes place outside normal office hours. In order to give efficient meat inspection service it has been necessary for the sanitary inspector to carry out inspections outside normal office hours, a position which appears to be common throughout the country.

The following is a summary of the number of animals killed and inspected during the period 2nd July to 31st December, 1954, together with the amount of meat condemned:—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	22	263	23	657	200
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	2	26	—	92	7
Percentages	9%	10%	—	14%	3.5%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	78	—	—	1
Percentages	4.5%	30%	—	—	.5%

Weights Condemned

Meat (1 whole and 4 part carcasses of beef)... .. 858 lbs.

Offal (Head and tongue, lungs, liver, heart, etc.) ... 2371 lbs.

Total ... 3229 lbs.

All condemned meat is stained green before leaving the slaughterhouse and is disposed of for animal feeding purposes.

There are 16 men licenced to slaughter animals under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

The sampling of food and drugs under the Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Staffordshire County Council.

Ice Cream and Preserved Food Premises

There are 31 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act of which only 5 manufacture, the remaining 26 sell a pre-packed product. Of the 5 manufacturers 2 produce a heat treated ice cream in accordance with the Heat Treatment Regulations and the other 3 produce a cold mix. The manufacture of ice cream is much more satisfactory than it was a few years ago and with the introduction of additional regulations many small manufacturers decided it was more economical to sell a pre-packed product, usually obtained from one of the large national concerns.

13 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination to denote the standard of cleanliness. 12 were reported as Provisional Grade 1 and 1 Provisional Grade 2, all denoting satisfactory conditions.

Food preparing premises, 13 of which are registered, were generally satisfactory and it is hoped that the improvement in conditions of the past few years will be maintained.

The following is a summary of the various types of food premises in the area, together with details of the number of inspections:—

	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises... ..	31	29
Food Preparing Premises	13	20
Butchers' Shops... ..	12	47
General Food Premises	87	28
Bakehouses	8	24
Slaughterhouses... ..	3	216

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1954 has been a satisfactory year. There has been a reduction in the prevalence of all notifiable infectious diseases with the exception of tuberculosis. Under the Public Health Act 1936, the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and its 1952 amendments, the new Regulations of 1949 and 1951 and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952, 54 cases of infectious disease were notified compared with 59 cases in 1953 and 60 in 1952. Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1940, 51 cases of measles and 2 of whooping cough were notified, each disease showing a sharp reduction in incidence compared with the 1953 figures of 181 and 56 cases respectively. The statistics relate to the notifiable infectious diseases among the home population during the calendar year 1954 and appear in the report in tabular form opposite page 26. The age and sex incidence are included. No corrections were necessary from a total of 106 notifications. Hospital facilities for the reception and treatment of all types of infectious diseases are available and no cases have been refused admission. Hospital removals are arranged by the local general practitioners or the Medical Officer of Health and transport is efficiently and promptly dealt with by the local Ambulance Service.

Scarlet Fever has declined in incidence and severity. It is one of the less formidable diseases of childhood and need rarely require hospitalisation. 14 cases occurred during the year, 6 of which represented a small outbreak at Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital. 12 of the 14 cases were removed to Bucknall Isolation Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, including all the Biddulph Grange cases and the remaining 2 were nursed satisfactorily at home. 9 cases occurred among children of school age. There were no complications; and no return cases were brought to my notice. The decline in the incidence of scarlet fever has been maintained over the last decade and the attack rate has been greatly reduced.

Diphtheria continues to be conspicuous by its absence and again no cases have been notified. The emphasis is still on immunisation and publicity has been maintained throughout the year to ensure that the sense of urgency in the minds of the public may not be lulled. The object of the immunisation campaign remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75 per cent. of babies before their first birthday. The continued elimination of the disease is conditioned by the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks. The greatest single factor in preventing this is the adequate protection of the school child by reinforcing the

protection obtained in the first year of life with a further inoculation at entry into school. There are ample facilities locally for all infants and all school entrants to receive this protection. The danger is that if reinforcing dosage is not done, the immunity conferred in infancy will lapse. In Biddulph during 1954 97 children of pre-school age and 21 of school age received primary immunisation. 123 children received reinforcing doses and so became "fully" protected. The publicity on the hoardings sums up the position simply enough: "If you had ever seen a baby with diphtheria you would have yours immunised now."

The slight increase in the number of notifications of tuberculosis from 10 in 1953 to 13 this year does not, fortunately, represent an increase in primary cases. 5 were already proved cases transferred from other areas and re-housed locally in good living conditions. They were all pulmonary forms of the disease. At December 31st, 1954, there were 103 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of which 68 were pulmonary and 35 other forms of the disease. This is a net increase of 7 cases during the year. The incidence of tuberculosis in the area, especially the pulmonary form of the disease, is not encouraging: indeed it is almost as high as that of scarlet fever and much more menacing. There are, however, greater facilities now for finding previously unsuspected active cases and preventing infection and for better methods of treating the established case than ever before. Mass radiography, better segregation in modern houses, freer use of beds in sanatoria and isolation hospitals and the recent advances in medical and surgical treatment are among the weapons available to ensure a steady decline in the morbidity and mortality rates of a disease which is still a serious economic problem for the individual as well as for the community. There was a gratifying remission in the incidence of measles during the year after the epidemic outbreaks of 1951, 1952 and the latter half of 1953. A total of 51 cases was notified. The seasonal pattern remained the same with the majority of the cases occurring in the early winter months and the aggregation of cases centred in the schools. In these semi-closed communities 27 cases were notified; only 6 cases occurred among infants and 17 were notified among pre-school children. The brunt of the outbreak was borne by the more populous area of the central parts of the town with 38 cases, the remainder being distributed evenly throughout the district. There was one adult case. Only one hospital admission was necessary, there were few complications and no mortality.

Whooping cough declined remarkably during 1954. It is still a major problem, however, and emphasis this year has been placed on active immunisation against the disease by the use of whooping cough vaccine. An immunisation scheme has been available in Biddulph since October, 1953, under arrangements made with the Local Health Authority. Parents have the choice of obtaining this service for their infants and young children at the Welfare Clinic

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1954, BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS

Ages, etc.	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Measles (excluding rubella)		Diphtheria	
Numbers originally notified Civilians (all ages)	M. 8	F. 6	M. 	F. 2	M. —	F. —	M. —	F. —	M. 25	F. 26	M. —	F. —
Final numbers after correction Civilians—												
0				1					1			
1	1	2		1					1	4		
3	2								13	4		
5	5	4							9	18		
10												
15												
25 and over									1			
Age unknown												
Total civilians	8	6		2	—	—	—	—	25	26	—	—
Ages, etc.	Ac. Pneumonia		Food Poisoning		Smallpox		Ac. Encephalitis		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers	
Numbers originally notified Civilians (all ages)	M. 14	F. 7	M. 2	F. 1	M. —	F. —	M. —	F. —	M. —	F. —	M. —	F. —
Final numbers after correction Civilians—												
0			2									
5	5	2										
15	4	2		1								
45	2	2										
65 and over	3	1										
Age unknown												
Total civilians	14	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ages, etc.	Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Other Notifiable Diseases		Originally Notified		Final Numbers after correction			
Numbers originally notified Civilians (all ages)	M. —	F. 1	M. 1	F. —	Civilians—		M. —	F. 1	M. —	F. 1		
					Puerperal pyrexia		1	—	1	—		
					Ophthalmia neonatorum							
Final numbers after correction Civilians—												
0												
5												
15		1	1									
45												
65 and over												
Age unknown												
Total civilians	—	1	1									

or by their own doctors. All infants should be given whooping cough vaccine since the disease is most serious in early infancy. The ideal time for primary immunisation is thought to be at 4 months with second and third doses at monthly intervals. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that recall doses are essential and should be administered at 18 months and again as the child enters school. The scheme locally has been well received by parents and during the year 67 infants received a full course of primary immunisation. No complications have been reported from the use of the vaccine which has been developed after many years of research. The nature of the disease in vaccinated children in succeeding years will give some indication of the efficacy of the product and the necessity and frequency of reinforcing doses.

FORM 124 E

**SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS OF ACTUAL AND SUSPECTED
ILLNESS AND CONTACTS**

1954

School	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	German Measles	Whooping Cough	Varicella	Mumps	Poliomyelitis
Biddulph Central								
County Primary	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Biddulph Central								
Infants	2	..	11	...	1	44	35	...
Knypersley Secondary								
Modern Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Knypersley								
County Primary	...	..	..	...	...	..	..	...
Biddulph Moor								
County Primary	...	..	..	..	..	...	...	..
Biddulph North								
County Primary	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	..
Totals...	5	...	11		1	45	43	

I am obliged to the Head Teachers of the various schools for the promptitude with which I am informed of cases of actual and suspected infectious disease, especially of those cases which are not officially notifiable, viz.: Chicken-pox, mumps, etc. Apart from mumps the numbers compare with the low figures of infectious diseases among school children during the year. No school closure was necessary during the year because of any infectious disease. The decline in scarlet fever notifications among school children has been marked and in all cases the disease has been mild.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

Age Periods	New Cases 13				Deaths 2			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respirator	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	8	1	2	1	1	—	—

Biddulph Maternity and Child Welfare Centre

(Staffordshire County Council—Leek Area Health Committee)

1954

Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre

(Friday, 1.30 p.m.—4.0 p.m.)

	Children under 1 year	Children over 1 year
First Attendances... ..	83	30
Total Attendances... ..	1166	268

Health Visiting

	Children under 1 year	Children over 1 year
First Visits... ..	227	—
Re-visits... ..	1437	2000

Ante-Natal Clinic

(alternate Tuesdays 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon)

Attendance for first time (New Patients)	43
Total Attendances	355

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Biddulph
